

## **UNAPPROVED**

**There was a regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, February 16, 2012 at the Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island.**

**Members Present: Lisa Beaulieu, Linda Teel, John Gibbons, Erika Sanzi, Earl Wood.**

**Jeff Mutter and Daniel Pedro were absent.**

**Administration Present: Dr. Phil Thornton, Superintendent, Andrew Henneous, Legal Representative**

### **Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting**

**Vice Chairperson Beaulieu convened the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.**

### **Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda**

**Mrs. Sanzi made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd Mr. Wood, approved 5-0.**

### **Agenda Item #4: Report of Executive Session Meeting on 2/6/2012**

**A. Report of Executive Session Vote – Mrs. Beaulieu noted 7-0 vote,**

**all present.**

**B. Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. Wood made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 5-0.**

**Agenda Item #5: Report of Executive Session Meeting on 2/16/2012**

**A. Report of Executive Session Vote – Mrs. Beaulieu noted that there were no votes taken.**

**B. Vote to Seal Minutes of Executive Session – Mr. Wood made a motion to seal the minutes, 2nd Mrs. Teel, approved 5-0.**

**Agenda Item #6: Consent Agenda**

**Mr. Gibbons made a motion to approve the minutes of regular meeting 2/9/12 and the minutes of Executive Session 2/6/12, 2nd Mr. Wood, approved 5-0.**

**Agenda Item #7: Student Government Report**

**Some highlights noted by the Student Government representatives were as follows: during mid terms the Freshman's were given care packages, February 2nd was 8th grade orientation, February 7th meeting to discuss upcoming events followed by a scavenger hunt, February 10th played Bingo at the Grandview Nursing Home with some of the residents, February 14th Blood Drive – 61 donations, Daffodil Days is again being held to raise money for the Cancer Society, Pennies for Patients will be going on in March – this will benefit the Leukemia Society, also collecting peanut butter to benefit some local families.**

## **Agenda Item #8: Superintendent's Report**

**A. NECAP District Assessment Scores - Dr. Thornton started off by saying that he was happy with the Reading results, the scores are up and improvement is really coming along. He does believe that the district needs to take the same approach with Math that they did with Reading so that we can see the same type of improvement in the Math numbers. Some of the elementary schools made small improvements, but there is definitely room for improvement across the board. Dr. Thornton shared the “private side” of the NECAP results with everyone – he explained and showed everyone how he could actually zoom right in on what parts of the Math testing the students are having problems with – he could even show us problem examples – he would like to re-test some of the students that had the most difficulty in specific areas, just to see if now that they moved up a grade – are they still having problems. The Principals will be made aware of where all of the problems are and will have meetings with Dr. Thornton to discuss these issues and to see how to correct them and improve the scores. At the high school, Chris Scott, Math Dept. Chair, has an intervention program currently in place to help Math students and Dr. Thornton said that they are also looking at some scheduling changes to see if that would help. Dr. Thornton would like to have a benchmark for each grade for each student and see if any of these programs are helping. He went on to say that Math is the biggest challenge right now, and he believes that the state needs to invest some money into Math curriculum – they need more time to**

teach it and more money to possibly update the curriculum in the state. Mrs. Beaulieu asked Dr. Thornton if face-to-face meetings with the high school teachers would help the situation and Dr. Thornton said that they do meet on a monthly basis and he hopes to start tracking their progress with the students very soon. Dr. Thornton noted again that he is happy to see the Reading numbers increasing, but said that increasing the Math numbers is a sense of urgency and the new Assistant Superintendent that the district hires will have this initiative as a number one priority. Dr. Thornton wants the teachers to stop and go back if half of their class does not understand something. Also, Dr. Thornton wanted parents to know that he realizes there are a lot of concerns at the Middle Schools and he said that they have narrowed the search for a new Math series down to two different companies – a decision will be made very soon on which one to purchase. He thinks the website helps the families in the district understand everything a lot better and he feels that they are able to keep up to date with what is going on in our district.

#### **Agenda Item #9: Chairperson's Report**

Mrs. Beaulieu wanted to thank Andrew Henneous for being the legal counsel tonight and also wanted to remind everyone about the Chef's Competition – sponsored by Sodexo – at the CHS Café on Saturday morning from 10-12 – Sodexo is trying to promote healthy eating habits for our students!

#### **Agenda Item #10: Comments from the Public**

**Mrs. P. stated that she believes the redistricting needs to happen and she would also like to see the North and South identifications with the middle schools, go away – she thinks it causes conflict. She would also like to see middle school redistricting.**

#### **Agenda Item #11: Reports of Standing Committees**

**A. Payment of Bills – Mr. Wood stated that there was no payment this evening.**

**B. Achievement and Communications Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Beaulieu said that the committee met with representatives from the SPED group and that she believes that we need to be more forward thinking and re-think the curriculum for Special Education. Also, the committee went to McCourt Middle School to meet with the Principal and to view the Science initiatives – she was happy to note that the teachers now promote Writing with Science.**

**C. Policy and Procedures Sub-Committee Update – Mrs. Teel noted that they are reviewing the Benefits Policy for Non-Admin individuals and the next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 28th.**

#### **Agenda Item #12: New Business**

**A. Vote on Non-Renewals – Dr. Thornton said there were none at this time.**

**B. Presentation of Sodexo Facility Report – January, 2012 – Alex Prignano, Business Manager, said that he and Dr. Thornton get monthly reports from Sodexo outlining what they have accomplished for the month, but noted that Sodexo will now be briefing the SC on a**

monthly basis as to what their highlights and accomplishments were for the month. Juan Garcia started his presentation with some of the highlights – he had pictures on the screen of the following items: Landscaping near some of the walkways at Cumberland Hill, construction of a new student walkway (currently under construction) at McCourt Middle School, both middle schools had air conditioning installed in the computer labs, a swing was installed in the special needs room at Community Elementary, Ashton Elementary was having a plumbing issue but after having the septic pumped out, it seems to be better, all of the sinks and faucets at Garvin Elementary are in the process of being replaced – some of the other schools also, some of the schools are getting new lighting, CHS had work done to the pool, CHS Café had a wall fixed (was damaged due to vandalism), the Wellness Center had a door closer fixed. Mrs. Teel asked Juan if they had preventive maintenance programs in place and he said they did. Mrs. Beaulieu asked Dr. Thornton the status on the COPS Grant – could it provide additional cameras? He said he was working out the red tape of the grant and yes there are camera dollars available and there is a bid that will be going out soon – he hopes to have the cameras installed in April. Dr. Thornton went on to say that the COPS Grant is also going to help with getting silent smoke alarms installed in the bathrooms of the CHS – they will notify the proper personnel when someone is smoking in the bathrooms. At the end of the presentation Juan and Jason (also from Sodexo) were mentioning the fact that they will be cleaning the floors in the Wellness Center with some new cleaner, it will not damage the floors and they can use it on

**a regular basis - they will be changing the way they clean the floors and the numbers of times they clean the floors.**

**C. Discussion and/or vote to approve field trips of long duration: Washington, DC – November, 2012 – Dr. Anderson, Principal at McCourt Middle School, stated that they have been doing the Washington trip for five years and he hoped that this could continue. Mr. Wood made a motion to approve, 2nd Mrs. Sanzi, approved 5-0.**

**D. Discussion and/or vote to approve memorandum of understanding for the CHS Foreign Exchange Student Program – Dr. Thornton asked that this item be discussed at the next SC meeting, he was not ready to report out yet.**

#### **Agenda Item #13: Personnel Recommendations**

**No personnel recommendations at this time.**

#### **Agenda Item #14: Comments from the Public**

**No comments at this time.**

#### **Agenda Item #15: School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports)**

**No comments at this time.**

#### **Agenda Item #16: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in R.I.G.L. 42-46-5**

**No Executive Session at this time.**

**Agenda Item #17: Adjournment**

**Mr. Wood made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Mr. Gibbons, approved 5-0.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.**

**Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony**